2. The classification of a new land and the trees thereon, if any, should be on a par with that of the adjoining lands.

3. The Tahsildars should be required to invariably inspect the lands personally, before fixing the rate of *tharavila* on any *poramboke* lands.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

7. Adoption of a uniform rate of *tharavila* on *poramboke* and *puduval* lands in the same Division or Taluk.

Mr. Mathu Ithapiri Tharakan (Member, Kunnathunad taluk) said that, in the matter of registering *tharisu* and *poramboke* lands as *puduval*, the fixing of *tharavila* by Revenue Officers was by no means uniform, that, though the rate fixed by the Government was only Rs. 3 per acre, the officers realised as much as 100 times the above rate, *i. e.* up to Rs. 300 per acre and that, in fixing rates for different lands, no definite principle or policy was followed. That was highly prejudicial to the interests of the people, especially the poor cultivators. The discretion given to the Revenue Officers to levy different rates of *tharavila* gave ample scope to the subordinates of the Revenue Department to oppress the people. The Member, therefore, prayed that a uniform rate of *tharavila* be fixed for the whole State, and if that was considered not feasible, at least for each Division or Taluk, and that *puduval* registries be made on recovery of such a rate of *tharavila*.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

8. Desirability of realizing the acreage value on Cardamom lands in ten instalments.

Mr. Sannyasi Mallayan Chetti (Member, Devicolam taluk) said that the hardships to which the cardamom ryots and the loss to which the Government were put on account of the raising of the *tharavila* from Rs. 10 to Rs. 25 per acre four years ago would have become clear at least now. The yield in cardamom lands had been on the decline for the past 4 years. The price of cardamoms per *thulam*, which was Rs. 56 before, had now gone down to Rs. 15. The cardamom ryots had also to pay income-tax to the British Government. To add to their troubles, the war had also affected them. As a result, the ryots in the cardamom lands had become heavily indebted, the amount of debts in which they were involved varying from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 30,000. The lands belonging to the cardamom ryots in British India were all being abandoned or sold. The same would have to be done in Travancore also, if they were not relieved of their great hardships. Already, a large extent of land had been allowed to lie waste, because the ryots were unable to obtain the wherewithal for cultivation. The remedial measures suggested by the Member were—

(1) to allow them to pay the *tharavila* of Rs. 25 per acre in 10 or 12 instalments;

(2) to recommend to the British Government the abolition of the income-tax now levied on cardamom ryots in British India; and

(3) to give loans to the ryots at a rate varying from Rs. 50 to Rs. 150 per acre on the security of their land, the usual interest being charged.

A better course, the Member said, would be to reduce the *tharavila* itself to Rs. 10 and order its being realized in 10 annual instalments.

Dewan's reply.—The request of the Member that the British Government should be moved with a view to the income-tax levied by them being cancelled is not feasible. It will not be proper to make such a recommendation and, even if it was made, there was no likelihood of its being sanctioned. The other suggestions are noted.

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